



# SYNOPSIS

Prefiled Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions  
2015 Maryland General Assembly Session

**January 14, 2015**  
**Schedule 1**

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**PLEASE NOTE:** The following legislation was prefiled for the 2015 Session.

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## **SENATE BILLS INTRODUCED January 14, 2015**

### **SB 1**      **Senator Conway**

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – PHARMACISTS – REFILLS OF  
PRESCRIPTIONS DURING STATE OF EMERGENCY

Altering the circumstances under which a pharmacist, during a state of emergency, may refill a prescription for a drug for which the refill has not been authorized; providing that a pharmacist who is working in Maryland, instead of the area declared an emergency, may refill the prescription if the federal or any state government, instead of the federal or this State's government, has declared a state of emergency; increasing the maximum quantity from a 14-day to a 30-day supply that may be dispensed under the prescription refill; etc. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015

HO, § 12-506(c) - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

### **Department of Legislative Services**

90 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Baltimore Area: 410-946-5400 — Washington Area: 301-970-5400

Other Maryland Areas: 1-800-492-7122 — Maryland Relay Service: 1-800-735-2258

**SB 2 Senator McFadden****HIGHER EDUCATION INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM**

Establishing the Higher Education Investment Tax Credit Program to authorize tax credits against the State income tax, public service company franchise tax, and insurance premium tax equal to 50% of the donation made to specified eligible higher education institutions; requiring the donations to be used for specified purposes in priority funding areas; authorizing, each year, the Maryland Higher Education Commission to allocate up to \$20,000,000 in tax credits to eligible higher education institutions; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015

ED, §§ 17-401 through 17-406, TG, §§ 8-418 and 10-737, and IN, § 6-123 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 3 Senator Getty****STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE – EXCEPTIONS – SOCIAL SERVICE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Authorizing nonprofit organizations that provide social services to residents of the State and have an annual operating budget of \$250,000 or less to pay employees 85% of the State minimum wage or \$7.25 per hour; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015

LE, § 3-413 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 4 Carroll County Senators****CARROLL COUNTY – GAMING EVENTS**

Authorizing specified organizations in Carroll County to conduct a card game, card tournament, or casino event under specified circumstances; requiring an organization to obtain a permit from the Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County before conducting a card game, card tournament, or casino event; requiring an organization that seeks a permit to meet specified requirements; specifying that a card game, card tournament, or casino event may be managed and operated by specified organizations; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015

CR, § 13-906 - amended and § 13-906.1 - added

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 5 Senator Getty****ELECTION LAW – CANVASS OF VOTES – PUBLIC OBSERVATION**

Clarifying the definition of “canvass” as it applies to votes cast during early voting; providing that a board of canvassers and the staff of a local board may be observed as they complete each part of the canvass by authorized observers; specifying specified individuals or entities who have the right to designate a registered voter as an observer at each counting center; etc.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015

EL, §§ 11-101 and 11-301 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 6 Senator Klausmeier****INCOME TAX – CREDIT FOR LONG-TERM CARE PREMIUMS**

Altering a limitation on claiming the income tax credit for eligible long-term care insurance premiums for more than 1 year with respect to the same insured individual; altering the amount of the credit from a one-time \$500 credit to a maximum of \$250 for taxable years beginning January 1, 2016, and January 1, 2017, and a maximum of \$500 for the taxable year beginning January 1, 2018, and for each taxable year thereafter; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015

TG, § 10-718 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 7 Senator Middleton****ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES – SALE TO MINORS – COMPONENTS, SUPPLIES, AND ENFORCEMENT**

Clarifying that the prohibition against selling, distributing, or offering for sale a specified electronic device to a minor that can be used to deliver nicotine includes any component for the device or product used to refill or resupply the device; clarifying that the exception to the prohibition for devices approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration applies only to devices for sale as a tobacco cessation product; changing a violation of the prohibition from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015

HG, § 24-305 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 8 Senator Getty****PUBLIC HEALTH – REGULATION OF MILK PRODUCTS – REVISIONS**

Altering specified definitions related to the regulation of milk products; repealing the limitation on the number of milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permits the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene may issue; repealing the requirement that an applicant for a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit operate a dairy farm with no more than 120 cows or goats in the herd; repealing the limit on the number of times a milk processor – farmstead cheese producer permit may be renewed; making the Act an emergency measure; etc.

**EMERGENCY BILL**

HG, §§ 21-401, 21-416.1, and 21-417 - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 9 Senator McFadden****GAS AND ELECTRICITY – SMART METERS – CUSTOMER RIGHTS AND REQUIRED REPORTS**

Requiring a utility company to give specified written notice to specified customers prior to deploying smart meters throughout all or a portion of the utility company's service territory; prohibiting a utility company from imposing any additional fee or charge on a specified customer who refuses installation of a smart meter or requests removal of a smart meter; requiring the Public Service Commission and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to make specified reports regarding smart meters; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015

PU, § 7-302.1 - added

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 10 Senator Brochin****MOTOR FUEL TAX RATES – CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ADJUSTMENT – REPEAL**

Repealing a requirement that specified motor fuel tax rates be adjusted in future years based on growth in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2015

TG, § 9-305 - amended

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

**SB 11**      **Senators Astle and Middleton****PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION – HEARING EXAMINERS – CHANGE OF JOB TITLE**

Changing the job title of “hearing examiners” of the Public Service Commission to “public utility law judges”.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015

PU, Various Sections - amended

Assigned to: Finance

**SB 12**      **Senator DeGrange****FAMILY LAW – CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT – EXPUNGEMENT OF REPORTS AND RECORDS – TIME PERIOD**

Requiring a local department of social services to maintain specified reports of suspected abuse or neglect and all assessments and investigative findings for specified periods of time for the purpose of determining whether a pattern exists; and increasing the time period after which a local department is required to expunge specified reports and records of suspected child abuse and neglect.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015

FL, § 5-707 - amended

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

**SB 13**      **Senators Conway and Pinsky****INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION – FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION – DEFINITION**

Altering the definition of “fully online distance education program” to mean a program, originating outside the State, offered by an out-of-state institution in which a student domiciled in Maryland enrolls, 51% or more of the program is offered through electronic distribution, and the Commission determines that the portion of the program offered at a location in the State, if any, does not require a specified certificate of approval; etc.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015

ED, § 11-202.2 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 14**      **Senator Conway****HEALTH OCCUPATIONS – BOARD OF PHARMACY – PHARMACIST  
REHABILITATION COMMITTEE – DEFINITION**

Altering the definition of “pharmacist rehabilitation committee”, for purposes of provisions of law governing pharmacist rehabilitation committees, to provide that it is a group that includes at least one pharmacist instead of a group, the majority of which is comprised of pharmacists.

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2015

HO, § 12-317 - amended

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**SB 15**      **Senator Conway****TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A DYSLEXIA  
EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Establishing the Task Force to Study the Implementation of a Dyslexia Education Program; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving specified compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of specified expenses; requiring the Task Force to study and make recommendations regarding specified matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations on or before December 30, 2015; etc.

EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs